

## THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5      1. A floor with strips each defining a length and width and having side and end edges, and being provided with either end tongues or end grooves along the side and end edges, the strips being placed in groups each comprising a number of tongue and groove assembled strips each group fastened to a subfloor by at least one fastener which is driven into the subfloor through at least one stepped transverse hole provided on at least one strip of the group, the hole designed with at least one step in the strip and resting against the at least one step with a fastener head covered by a cover plug in the transverse hole, wherein the cover plug is a metal plug arranged to be retained at a distance from the fastener head without use of adhesives.
- 10     2. A floor according to claim 1, wherein the metal plug has a larger external diameter than the corresponding section of the stepped transverse hole in the floor strip.
- 15     3. A floor according to claim 1, wherein the metal plug is designed with a screw thread.
- 20     4. A floor according to claim 3, wherein the pitch of the screw thread is small or zero.
- 25     5. A floor according to claim 1, wherein a lower step is made in the at least one transverse hole serving as abutment to the head on the employed fastener, and an upper step serving as abutment to the lower face of the metal plug.
- 30     6. A floor according to claim 5, wherein the metal plug is configured in the form of a disc.
7.      A floor according to claim 1, wherein the metal plug is made of copper, bronze or steel.
- 30     8. A floor according to claim 1, wherein the fastener is a screw or nail.

9. A floor with strips each defining a length and width and having side and end edges, and being provided with either end tongues or end grooves along the side and end edges, the strips being placed in groups each comprising a number of tongue and groove assembled strips each group fastened to a subfloor by at least one fastener which is driven into the subfloor through at least one stepped transverse hole provided on at least one strip of the group, the hole designed with at least one step in the strip and resting against the at least one step with a fastener head covered by a cover plug in the transverse hole, wherein each group is provided with tongues and grooves that both allow adjacent strips of each group to be mutually tongue and groove assembled along their side edges, and allow the end edges of each group to be tongue and groove assembled with the side edges of a first and second adjacent group respectively in such a way that each of four adjacent groups will define a rectangular section which is filled by a filler piece having essentially the same thickness as the strips.

10

15 10. A floor according to claim 9, wherein each strip has a length that is longer than its width multiplied by the number of strips in the group.

11. A floor according to claim 9, wherein each strip is provided with an end tongue at each end edge and that at least one strip in each group has a side tongue and a side groove and at least another strip in the same group has two side grooves.

20

12. A floor according to claim 9, wherein each strip is provided with an end tongue at one of its end edges and an end groove at the other end edge, and a side groove and an opposite side tongue.

25

13. A floor according to claim 9, wherein the side tongues of each strip is located in the center of the respective side edge.

14. A floor according to claim 9, wherein each strip has a length of between 20 and 100 cm.

30

15. A floor according to claim 9, wherein each strip has a length of between 30 and 90 cm

16. A floor according to claim 9, wherein each strip has a length of between 40 and 80 cm.

17. A floor according to claim 9, wherein the number of strips in a group is between 2 and 4.

5

18. A floor according to claim 17, wherein the filler piece is made of the same material as the strips.

19. A floor according to claim 17, wherein the filler piece is made of metal.

10

20. A floor according to claim 17, wherein the filler piece includes a metal layer on one or both sides of a non-metal.

21. A floor according to claim 20 wherein the non-metal is wood.

15

22. A floor according to claim 9, wherein the fastener is a screw or nail.